

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6753

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2453

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI, FI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KEKKONEN JOINS CHORUS OF FINNISH  
CRITICS OF CHILEAN COUP

REF: USINFO HELSINKI 2426

BEGIN SUMMARY. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN IN DEPLORING RECENT  
EVENTS IN CHILE HAS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THEY DEMONSTRATE  
MAJOR SOCIAL REFORMS ARE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE WITHIN  
FRAMEWORK OF TRADITIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY.  
KEKKONEN'S WORDS HIGHLIGHT WAVE OF CONCERN ABOUT CHILE  
IN NEARLY ALL CORNERS OF FINNISH SOCIETY. CRITICISM  
OF U.S. HAS BEEN IMPLICIT--AND SOMETIMES--EXPLICIT--IN  
MUCH OF FINNISH TREATMENT OF CHILEAN COUP BUT NO  
DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST EMBASSY.  
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC-LED GOVERNMENT HAD SPECIAL BOND WITH  
ALLENDE AND IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH HIS  
SUCCESSORS IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN, WHEN RECEIVING AN  
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HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM TURKU UNIVERSITY SEPTEMBER 14,  
ADDED HIS VOICE TO CRITICISM OF CHILEAN COUP HEARD

FROM PRACTICALLY EVERY CORNER OF FINNISH SOCIETY. KKKONEN SAID THAT THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS IN CHILE SHED LIGHT ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS WHEN ONE TRIES TO CURRY OUT REFORMS AND MAKE SOCIAL CHANGES. ALTHOUGH ALLENDE KEPT WITHIN THE CONSTITUTION TO THE BITTER END HIS OPPONENTS WERE NOT SO FAITHFUL. "I AM OF THE OPINION THAT THE EFFECTS OF THE EVENTS IN CHILE WILL NOT BE CONTAINED WITHIN THE BORDERS OF THAT COUNTRY. IN ANY EVENT, THE CHILEAN OFFICERS' JUNTA--AND THE POWERS BEHIND IT-- HAVE DONE THEIR BEST TO PROVE THE TRUTH OF WHAT LENIN SAID IN MARCH 1919: 'IT WOULD BE THE GREATEST STUPIDITY TO SUPPOSE THAT MOST PROFOUND REVOLUTION IN HUMAN HISTORY--THE TRANSFER OF POWER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE WORLD FROM THE EXPLOITING MINORITY TO THE EXPLOITED MAJORITY--COULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE OLD FRAMEWORK OF BOURGEOIS PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, THAT IT COULD TAKE PLACE WITHOUT SUDDEN SHIFTS, WITHOUT CREATING NEW FORMS OF DEMOCRACY, NEW INSTITUTIONS, WHICH WOULD TAKE THEIR SHAPE FROM THE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES.'"

2. CRITICISM OF THE COUP HAS COME FROM VIRTUALLY ALL CONRERS OF FINNISH SOCIETY--FROM THE STUDENT AND YOUTH GROUPS OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY TO THE EXPECTED DIATRIBES OF THE EXTREME LEFT. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A FEW TELEGRAMS FROM COMMUNIST DOMINATED ORGANIZATIONS CONDEMNING THE US FOR ENGINEERING THE COUP BUT SO FAR WE HAVE NOT BEEN THE OBJECT OF ACTIVE PROTEST. TEN MINUTE SYMPATHY STRIKES WERE CALLED IN MANY INDUSTRIES ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14 AND RALLIES WERE HELD IN FINLAND'S THREE MAJOR CITIES ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16. THE ORGANIZERS WERE LARGELY COMMUNISTS AND LEFT-WING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. ONLY 2000 PEOPLE TURNED OUT AT THE COMMUNIST CULTURAL CENTER IN HELSINKI; LESS THAN HALF THAT NUMBER TOOK PART IN THE MEETINGS IN TURKU AND TAMPERE. AT THE HELSINKI MEETING LEFT-WING SMCIALIST MINISTER OF EDUCATION SUNDQVIST WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT EVENTS IN CHILE DO NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY LEAD TO THE  
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CONCLUSION THAT PEOPLE SHOULD REJECT THE PEACEFUL WAY TO SOCIALISM.

3. DESPITE COMPETITION FROM EVENTS IN NEIGHBORING SWEDEN THE CHILEAN COUP HAS BEEN THE NUMBER ONE NEWS TOPIC IN FINLAND SINCE IT TOOK PLACE. THE FINNS DEVELOPED A SPECIAL AFFINITY FOR CHILE DURING ALLENDE'S PRESIDENCY AND IT ONLY RECENTLY JOINED THE RANKS OF TARGET COUNTRIES FOR FINLAND'S FOREIGN AID EFFORTS. THIS AID HAS NOW BEEN FROZEN BY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT

DECISION AND IT IS UNLIKELY IT WILL BE RESUMED UNLESS  
A LEFT-OF-CENTER GOVERNMENT RETURNS TO POWER IN CHILE.

4. WEEKEND NEWS OF DEATH OF NUMBER OF CHILEAN  
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS BROUGHT EXPRESSION OF "SHOCK" FROM  
PRIME MINISTER SORSA. HE EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH  
FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY  
MILITARY DICTATORSHIP AND DEMANDED THAT THE MILITARY  
JUNTA CEASE ITS MURDEROUS DEEDS AND RESTORE DEMOCRATIC  
RULE.  
KREHBIEL

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